Date: February 1, 2010 Contact: Geni Cavitt
Phone: 619-236-6677

For Immediate Release E-mail: gcavitt@sandiego.gov

## COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD SUPPORTS CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

## Changes Will Benefit Many More Veterans

San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald is supporting a proposal to amend the San Diego City Charter to expand the eligibility for veterans hiring preference points when applying for civil service jobs.

Emerald says, "We've got the largest group of returning veterans from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the least we can do for these men and women who have served our nation."

The proposed amendment would expand the eligibility provision to all veterans serving in any war, major military action or peacekeeping mission, who have been honorably discharged. It would also provide an additional 5 percent credit to any veteran, or the spouse of any veteran, who has a service-connected disability of at least 15 percent, who meets the minimum job qualifications.

The amendment would give veterans preference points only to individuals who have achieved a passing grade on the civil service examination and would not be granted in any promotional examination.

"The City Council supports this amendment and hopes the voters will, too," added Emerald. "It'll be on the June 8<sup>th</sup> ballot."

Once the ballot statements have been filed and approved, they'll be available on Councilmember Emerald's Website.